Application No. 10/653,207

<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-13 and 16-19 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18 and 19 being independent. Claims 1, 3, 10 and 13 have been amended to more clearly describe Applicants' invention. These minor changes are not believed to significantly affect the scope of the claims, do not present new matter, are not believed to affect allowability of the claims, and have not been made for any reasons related to patentability.

Favorable consideration and an early allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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